



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

To: Servicepersons Awaiting Discharge Who May Have a Disability

Subj: Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment--Getting Ahead After You Get Out

Do you have a disability that began or became worse during active duty? If so, you may qualify for employment services, training, education, and other services through our Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program. This letter tells you about our program and how to apply.

What can vocational rehabilitation do for you?

Vocational rehabilitation can help you get and keep a good job. While training after you leave active duty, you'll get monthly payments to help with living expenses. These payments are over and above any VA compensation, military retirement, or separation pay. You may even start rehabilitation before you leave active duty. If you're too disabled to work, we may be able to help you live more independently.

On the back of this letter, you'll find more details about vocational rehabilitation. You may also want to get VA Pamphlet 28-00-1, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program Working Partners.

How can you apply?

To apply for vocational rehabilitation, take the following steps:

Step 1	Complete VA Form 28-1900, Disabled Veterans Application for Vocational Rehabilitation. You may do this before you leave active duty. Instead of sending a written application, you may apply over the internet at http://vabenefits.vba.vagov/vonapp . <i>(If you apply over the internet, go to step 4.)</i>
Step 2	Sign and date the Notice to VA Veterans Service Center on the back of this letter.
Step 3	Send both the VA Form 28-1900 and the Notice to the nearest VA regional office or give them to a VA staff member at any military discharge center.
Step 4	VA will set up an appointment to meet with a counselor. Your counselor will work with you to review your situation, determine your entitlement to rehabilitation benefits, and discuss your options. Be sure to come to this appointment.

If you have questions, please call 1-800-827-1000. Ask for the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Division. We'll be happy to help you.

Sincerely yours,

Vocational Rehabilitation and
Employment Division

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION BENEFITS

PROGRAM GOALS: Vocational rehabilitation helps servicepersons awaiting discharge for disability and service-disabled veterans to get a good job suitable to their needs or to increase their ability to live independently.

SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE: Vocational rehabilitation offers a number of services and assistance. If a VA counselor finds you entitled to this program, the counselor will work with you to develop a personal plan of services and assistance to meet your needs. The following chart lists some of these services and assistance:

Counseling and evaluation service	Job placement and adjustment service
Training to qualify you for employment	Tuition, fees, books, equipment, and supplies
Monthly subsistence allowance while training	Medical and dental treatment and prosthetic aids
Tutors, readers, or sign-language interpreters	Independent living training and service

QUALIFICATIONS: To be entitled to vocational rehabilitation, you must meet the following three conditions:

1. Your discharge from active duty must be under other than dishonorable conditions.
2. You must be within your period of eligibility for the program.
3. If VA rates your service-connected condition at least 20 percent, you must have difficulty getting or keeping a suitable job. With a 10 percent rating, you must have major difficulty getting or keeping such a job.


PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY: Generally, your period of eligibility is 12 years from the date VA notifies you that you have a VA rating that meets the program's disability qualification. VA can extend this period under certain conditions.

COURSES AND TYPES OF TRAINING: Not all programs include training. If you need training, usually full-time training can't last more than 48 months. You may train longer under limited circumstances. VA may also provide job placement and adjustment services for up to 18 additional months. You may train full time or less than full time. You may train in any of the following programs that meet your needs:

- College-level education
- Trade, business, or technical school education
- Apprenticeship, other on-job training, or on-farm training
- Self-employment
- Rehabilitation facility, a sheltered workshop, or your own home.

NOTE: Some of these programs have special requirements. Your counselor will explain these requirements.

HELP EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT ENTITLED TO VA REHABILITATION: If you don't qualify for vocational rehabilitation, your VA counselor will help you learn about other services and assistance that may be available to enable you to reach your educational, training, and job goals.

 Department of Veterans Affairs		NOTICE TO VA VETERANS SERVICE CENTER	
I am attaching this notice to my application for vocational rehabilitation under chapter 31 of title 38 U.S.C. Code. Please prepare a memorandum rating if this will speed my eligibility determination for chapter 31 benefits.			
NAME OF SERVICE MEMBER OR VETERAN		VA FILE NUMBER	
SIGNATURE OF SERVICE MEMBER OR VETERAN		DATE	